



Barbershop Notes

Australian Association of Men Barbershop Singers (Inc.)

Issue 112

September-
October
2009



From our President

IT'S SHOW TIME !

It only happens once every two years, but the 10th AAMBS National Convention, Heritage Harmony, is here at last! All around Australia, in the rehearsal halls of 18 of our choruses, barbershop singers have been bringing together all the skills it takes to make a great performance. Distilled down to just two songs, they have polished their version of our beloved craft of singing in the barbershop style. Every rehearsal, workshop, and self-training session done by the chorus members that will be competing adds to the health and status of barbershopping Down Under, and also to our contribution to the art form worldwide.

The work is done.....the training sessions are almost over..... and what we needed to accomplish is really already finished. Singing and performing, at the best we can possibly be, makes us all winners. Every time we engage a local audience, with new higher levels of performance, we entertain, we motivate, we inspire. And every week, when we sing our repertoire with new "lock and ring", and dynamics, and sync, and matched vowels, it's just simply more fun!

In Hobart we will get to hear the improvements of all the other choruses. And when we take to the stage there will be awards and rewards of all types waiting to be claimed: Youth and Schools awards; Chorus most improved, Best small, medium, and large chorus, awards; and, of course, the medals for Open and Senior Quartets, and the big Chorus competition. But no matter which awards or medals your quartet or chorus has its sights on, it's a win-win situation – 18 times over.

Heritage Harmony. An opportunity provided by the literally thousands of man-hours of preparation by your fellow Barbershoppers in Hobart. Australia's barbershoppers together in one spot, sharing the excitement, camaraderie, and inspiration that comes with barbershopping. Show your best stuff..... enjoy the fellowship and activities.....and have fun. See you in Hobart!

In Harmony,
Mike Donnelly

AAMBS AGM 2009



6.30 pm Western Standard Time
Tuesday 8th December 2009 at Wembley Downs Uniting
Church, Calais Road, Wembley Downs WA

Including election of:

President

Treasurer

VP Conventions

VP Marketing

for the next two years 1/1/2010 – 31/12//2012

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From our Secretary

AGM – Our AGM will be held on Tuesday 8 December. Amongst the agenda items is the election of four members to the AAMBS Council for 2010 – 2012. The positions becoming vacant and the present members filling these positions are:

President	Mike Donnelly
Treasurer	Barry Joy
VP Conventions	Richard Gardam
VP Marketing	Derek Churchill

Each of these hardworking AAMBS Members is prepared to stand for re-election., however if you or someone in your Club wants to be considered for election at the AGM please complete a nomination form and return it to me as soon as possible.

Emails: With so many SPAM emails coming to us all I ask that you please enter a very clear and specific Subject reference on any email you send to me and to other Councillors. If an incoming email looks even slightly suspicious I will delete it rather than open it, especially after the very sophisticated virus which invaded my computer earlier this year.

It would also help me considerably, and save time, if you actually identify which Club, Chorus or Quartet you belong to each time you write or email me so that I don't have to check out the AAMBS' Database to ensure that I am responding to the right person.

Barbershop Notes: A big thank you to those contributors who send their Barbershop Notes' articles in early – this makes the production of your Newsletter much easier for our editor.

In Harmony,
Kevin White



From our VP Marketing

What does "Marketing" mean, as applied to individual choruses (or quartets)? I believe that it is successfully making your local community aware not only that you exist but that you are worth listening to. Too easy! Achieve this and you have a successful group.

Yeah? And how do we get there? Local newspaper ads. Local radio. Word of mouth. Concert flyers and posters just before a concert? Yes all of that and many choruses do that and are disappointed by not getting better results. Why? Is it the name "Barbershop"? We seem to sing alright. We know the notes. Why is it then when you sing in the local shopping mall, or local festival, or retirement village - most times for nothing - you get the feeling that the audiences are appreciative but they don't exactly send, you the singers, into raptures?

At outside presentations, people walk by with hardly a glance. They are used to switching channels night after night to get their entertainment fix. They fork out big dollars to hear live performances for overseas entertainers who are sometimes really past their use by date. Retirement villages clap politely and at local fetes listeners pause for a minute before going to the Crazy castle with the kids. Cruel, huh! Unfair, huh! We practice regularly . SO! WHAT'S MISSING?

"STAGE PRESENCE!" That's what. The ability to hold an audience's attention. The ingredient to make them stay and see what happens next. The intelligence and know-how to understand what makes an audience listen and pay attention. I am not talking about Presentation as much as how you feel about yourself being there OUT FRONT.

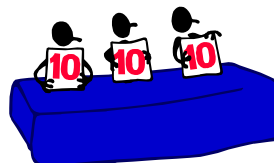
We will all meet up again in a couple of weeks in Hobart both to sing and enjoy each others performances and friendships. Let's ALL emote just three steps before the audience sees us approaching and hold it together for just six minutes. Six minutes? Is that all we get? Yes! As you step out just say to yourself that all those people are there to listen to you. You, individually, hold that stage and they are all looking at you. The others have put on their faces and the audiences eyes roam to pick out who is not quite with it. That does not mean over-acting, grinning like a Cheshire cat even during a sad ballad. Presence. Your individual stage presence for just six minutes is what will make your group's performance outstanding, entertaining, whistle-worthy.

And THAT is when your local community will come and listen. When new members are easier to get, and retain. STAGE PRESENCE ? It is everything. Think Charlie Chaplin, Laurence Olivier, Eartha Kitt. They had it. And if you want a modern day treat watch Michelle Pfeiffer in her latest movie "Cheri" She is worth an Academy Award just for the way she uses her eyes.

See you all in Hobart. Come up and abuse me if you like. I'm happy to debate some points. Enjoy and Present!

Derek Churchill

This is what we are all



aiming for in Hobart !!

From our VP Music



HARMONY COLLEGE

With only a little over two weeks to go, the organisation is settling down to only a few emails a day to sort out the final details. We have an attendance (including faculty) of 110, which is 20% down on the 2007 HC. This is due, mainly, to convention attendees taking off to tour Tassie; a place many have not visited before. Hope that they take their warmest clothes!!! HC attendees, keep your eyes open for the final newsletter, which should be available around the 26th Sept.

Congratulations go to Vocal Evolution for bringing 17 young singers and one old one (sorry Harry) to HC. Most of them have not attended before, in fact many were not singing Barbershop in 2007!!

MASSED SING

The songs and directors (which were chosen by ballot) are:

SONG	DIRECTOR	FROM
The old Songs	Graham Morrow	Misty Mountain Moonshiners QLD
Honey/Lil' Lize	Brian Fordham or Colin Miller	Sunshine Statesmen QLD
My Wild Irish Rose	Russ Bailey	TAG Team TAS
Heart of My Heart	Andrew Howson	The Blenders QLD
Nellie – chorus only	Rae Knight	Men in Harmony WA
Down Our Way	Mark McCann	Miner Chords QLD
Let Me Call You Sweetheart	Vicki Dwyer	Sydney Harmony NSW
Shine On Me	Ian Lushey	The Melbournaires VIC
Sweet and Lovely	Alex Morris	Vocal Evolution WA
I Still Call Australia Home	Ian Miller	AAMBS NSW

Ian Miller



From your VP Conventions

The convention is rushing towards us at an astonishing rate. Still can't get that move right. Are you sure that's the right bass note? Isn't that supposed to be an "air" vowel? I wonder if Mike/John/Will/Barry will be there...

In this helter skelter preparation don't forget to regularly visit the convention website at <http://www.barbershopconvention.com.au/Convention2009/> to see what's going on. Something different will be there every day. Sometimes a new page, other times alterations to an existing page.

Have you planned your convention to fit in the maximum possible activities? Can you see the sights and hear the highlights?

Don't forget:

Thursday: Civic Welcome and Massed Sing, Youth Competitions, Welcome Dinner

Friday: Quartet Semi Finals and Final

Saturday: Chorus Competition, Harmony Spectacular, Afterglow

Sunday: Church Service, Forum, Master Class, Farewell Dinner.

Most importantly, make sure that you meet and greet as many of your fellow barbershoppers as possible. Make sure you say hello to me and the rest of your Council. Share your ideas with us – inspire us to lead the organization where you want it to go. In particular, please talk to me about your convention: what you like and don't like; how it could be improved.

This is the one time we all get together in two years. Don't waste any opportunity.

Above all, be inspired

As the man almost said: *Barbershop Convention - where too much barbershop is barely enough*

Richard Gardam



From your VP Youth Development

Calling All Young Barbershop Singers of Australia

As we are all converging on Hobart for the biggest and best ever convention in the history of barbershop singing in Australia I thought it would be a great time to invite all the young singers (30 years and under) from around Australia to join together in a mass chorus to sing during the convention.

The two chosen songs have been posted on the Young Singers' website *You're Sixteen You're Beautiful* and *You're Mine* and *Wild Colonial Boy* which are available with learning tracks. Simply go to:

<http://youngsingers.com.au/downloads/>

Username: downloads

Password: harmony

Happy learning and be ready to come together with all the young barbershop singers of Australia and be coached by International Quartet lead gold medallist from "Real Time" John Newell and members of reigning Australian Open Quartet Champions "Fast Forward".

For those who are competing in the quartet and chorus competition below are the draws for these events.

Looking forward to a fantastic youth festival in Hobart.

AAMBS 10th National Convention

Date of Contest: 24-Sep-09

Place of Contest: Hobart, TAS



Youth Quartet Appearance List

Call No	Contestant	Report time	Performance Time
1	The Fishbowl Boys	15:22	15:45
2	Refridgerator	15:30	15:53
3	4 D	15:38	16:01
4	Red Harmony and the Yak	15:46	16:09
5	Diminished Fifth	15:54	16:17
6	Flashback!	16:02	16:25
7	The Velociraptors	16:10	16:33
8	Penguins 'n' Salsa	16:18	16:41
9	3 Men & A Tenor	16:26	16:49

Youth Chorus Appearance List

1	TAG TEAM	13:14	13:45
2	Festival State'smen Youth Chorus	13:26	13:57
3	Salad Mix	13:38	14:09
4	Off Campus	13:50	14:21
5	South East Corner Association	14:02	14:33

NOTE: This is a random draw for Order of Appearance, made before the contest.
The actual Order of Appearance may be varied at the Administrator's discretion, in prescribed circumstances.

Steve Griffin



10th AAMBS
National Convention
Hobart 2009



*Everything is ready, for our 10th National Convention and Hobart Club can't wait to welcome you.
Over 750 delegates have registered for the four days of fun and fellowship and competition
We trust your final preparations are going well.*

*The Planning committee has worked very hard to make the Heritage Harmony Convention a great experience.
There are some exciting innovations including a youth chorus contest with five contestants – it's on Thursday
afternoon.*

*And during the remainder of convention we'll bring you a number of surprises, some highlighting the heritage
of barbershop in Australia, others looking positively to the future of our organisation. We are confident you'll be
pleasantly surprised.*

*Now down to some of the finer detail. Of course, the Convention website is always a great source of
information to keep you updated.*

Airport Transport

Our preferred transport operator from Hobart Airport to the city is the Ten Bucks Bus. They park in the middle of the terminal - turn right from Jetstar/Qantas and left from Virgin Blue and Tiger Airways and watch out for the sign "\$10 Buck Bus". Travel time from the Airport to the City is approximately 15 to 20 minutes.

Registration

- The Desk will be open on **Wednesday** from 12 noon until 6.00pm at Hotel Grand Chancellor on the mezzanine level.
- It will reopen on **Thursday** morning from 8.30am till 6.00
- To qualify for a Meet in Tasmania Incentive, we will ask you at registration for the name of your accommodation venue, also the name(s) of any other delegates you are sharing with
- To assist us verify the claim, we also request that at your venue you provide the front desk with the names of any delegate(s) you are sharing with.

Massed Sing

... is on Thursday at the Theatre Royal in Campbell Street, just up from Convention HQ. Doors open at 11.40am for a prompt start at noon. Songs include: The Old Songs, Nellie Chorus, Sweet and Lovely, Heart of My Heart, My Wild Irish Rose, Honey/Lil Lize, Let Me Call You Sweet Heart, Down Our Way, Shine on Me, I Still Call Australia Home.

Welcome Dinner

- The dress code for the dinner is jacket and tie for men.
- Only delegates are able to attend the Welcome Diner and the Farewell Lunch

Information and Ticket Sales

The Information and Ticket Sales Desk will be open on Wednesday as above, and throughout the convention.

Extra tickets for non-delegates to the Saturday night Harmony Spectacular have sold out, but there will be tickets to the Contest Sessions.

- \$20 ticket covers the four quartet semi-final sessions
- \$20 ticket for the Quartet Final
- \$20 ticket for the Chorus Contest
- Or, non-delegates may buy a \$40 season ticket for all contest sessions.

Chorus Rehearsal Rooms

There are still a few spaces available on the Friday. Please contact convenor@hmbhc.intas.net

Video

Sydney Harmony is helping us out with the production and distribution of contest DVDs. And this convention, there will also be a DVD of the Saturday Harmony Spectacular.

Prices: Schools & Youth Quartet & Chorus Competition \$23; Quartet Semi Finals, \$23 (2 DVD Set); Quartet Finals - \$23; Chorus Competition - \$23; Complete Competition Set - \$53 (Save \$16 off the combined individual prices); Harmony Spectacular Concert - \$23; Complete 5 DVD Set - \$63 (save \$29 off the combined individual prices). Postage & Handling - \$8

Go to the convention website for an order form. Sydney Harmony representatives will also accept orders during convention.

Photography

Quartets will be photographed on the mezzanine floor before going into the contest traffic pattern. We will advise times. Choruses will be photographed on the stage at the end of their performance, in two different poses,

Prices of photographs are:

- Quartets (6 x 9 inch) single matte enlargement- \$10 each
- Choruses (8 x 12 inch) single matte enlargements - \$15 each
- Chorus bulk purchase (50%+ of members) - \$10 each

Sunday Church Service

This will be at Scots-Memorial Uniting Church in Bathurst St – it's close to Convention HQ, beginning at 9.30am. Four choruses will be participating, also our visiting quartet. The congregation is looking forward to our participation.

Sunday Master Class

The River City Clippers have agreed to be coached at the Master Class on Sunday morning from 11.30am.

Wednesday Evening Meal and Sing

Bookings are essential. There are a few places left. You will need to contact convenor@hmbhc.intas.net to secure a place.

Thank You

Thanks to everyone who has helped put the convention together. And thank you to everyone for coming along. With over 750 delegates, this is the biggest convention since Pan Pacific in Melbourne in 2001.

We're looking forward to seeing everyone gather in the spirit of harmony and hearing the exciting buzz of conversation as we all gather to watch our 2009 contests. Good luck to all the singers who will strut their stuff on stage. And most of all, we want everyone to have a great time in Hobart.

***** AAMBS NEEDS CONTEST ADMINISTRATORS *****

Every Barbershop contest requires planning and control by a ...
CONTEST ADMINISTRATOR.

That could be **YOU**,
a **MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY**, or **SOMEONE YOU KNOW!**

We are recruiting **NOW**, so get busy thinking and / or talking to your relations and friends.

No music skills are needed.

If you or your 'target' enjoy administration, can get along with people,
and are willing to learn a few rules, this could be for you or yours.

Contest Administrators in AAMBS are members of the AAMBS / NZABS Guild of Judges and
Contest Administrators.

As such, they enjoy the same privileges as judges, whilst accepting some similar obligations.

To become a Contest Administrator in AAMBS, you need to qualify
by attending a Contest Administration course run by AAMBS.

The next course will be held in Hobart from 21-23 September 2009,

at the 2009 AAMBS Contest and Judging School -

that's immediately prior to our 2009 Convention, so it can be easily swept up in the same trip!

*For details, contact David Brown
'phone (02) 4322 1167
email: dbrown@comcen.com.au*



NZABS' Tribute to Les Nation



23/07/1929 to 11/08/2009

“Les was a stalwart of NZ Barbershopping, the founding father of large scale youth involvement in NZ, the driving force behind the creation of Young Singers in Harmony, the mentor and manager of the Vocal FX Chorus and a friend to many around the world. He will be missed by us all.”

Les was a well respected friend to many members of AAMBS
– his passing leaves a huge gap in the Barbershop fraternity world-wide.



Jo Barbershopper visits California

These are just a few impressions of my recent trip to Anaheim to attend my sixth International Convention in 12 years. Yes, I know this hobby costs money but which hobby doesn't? At least the instrument is very portable. Airfares were good this year though.

I decided to leave Sydney on the Tuesday of the Convention week so I could attend a chorus rehearsal before I left. I was rooming with two Sydney Harmony colleagues, Bob Haynes & Mark O'Neill. My arrival time at lunchtime on Tuesday meant that I missed one of the innovations this year & that was the master classes included in the Convention fee. The lessons actually looked pretty useful but I never spoke to anyone who went to them so cannot report on their success.

We were thrown straight into the Quartet quarter finals & this year there was a field of 51. They included our very own *Alliance* as well as some other quartets from Sweden, UK & NZ that made it a true international. The sound system played up badly at the start & the air conditioning was noticeable together with some rhythmic clanking. In spite of all that the competition went well & *Alliance* did a great job on the Australian National Anthem, following it up with a magnificent performance of their two songs. I found it hard to judge the quartets & felt that the competition was pretty fierce. Jim Henry's quartet *Crossroads* & Joe Connolly's quartet *Old School* were outstanding as was the quartet of 4 young Swedes, *Ringmasters*, who eventually came 4th equal with *State Line Grocery* who, as you should all be aware, are coming to our Convention in Hobart. One element of Joe Connolly's quartet that particularly stood out for me was the incredible duet of lead & bass. I actually saw them sing on the Saturday night in a small hotel room & it was a great experience. *Stormfront* was a very funny quartet that came on in terrible green suits on their first appearance. They are a bit like Fred with a fall guy in the quartet & their parodies were very clever.

The Association of International Champions also had a concert as they always do & in it they inducted the latest quartet champions from 2008, *OC Times*. This was good but the best was left for the Chorus competition on the Friday. Bob, Mark & I had watched about an hour of one of *Vocal Majority's* rehearsals, (they had LOTS), & they spent the hour going over the first phrase of the song, discussing emotions, lights & darks, movement & anything that would impact on their presentation. As is well known, you only get one chance to make a first impression & that is the key to a successful performance. Geoff Oxley was there, of course, as Deputy Director & they had all kinds of people out front. The Calderons were there too. Some of you may remember they came to Australia about 6 years ago & he is in the front row of VM now. Riser discipline was total & there was no mention of notes as they all had them perfectly.

The Chorus competition was done in two separate sessions on the Friday. VM were on seventh & their performance was very impressive with its impact & musicianship & they scored higher than they had ever scored. *Great Northern Union* & the *Mile High Chorus* were good too. After a break, the second half was on in the evening. *The Ambassadors of Harmony* under Jim Henry were almost last & their performance blew us away. I spoke afterwards to Adrian Gimpel who had been shadow judging for presentation. As a learner, he was not sure how to score but the real judges scored them 498 out of 500!

Apparently one judge began to reach for his pencil & then thought better of it, leaning back to enjoy the performance of 158 men singing *76 Trombones* unfolding in front of him. The chorus scored the highest in the history of the conventions, 2926 out of 3000. When the final scores were announced there was a clear gap between second & third.

Another innovation was the dinner concert for the World Harmony Jamboree. That worked pretty well though the sound system in the hotel was a bit disappointing. *Alliance* did a wonderful presentation of that well know Australian song *I am Australian*. We also heard from a Sweet Adelines quartet that had a six year old in it! By the way, our President is the President of the World Harmony Council & that is great for Australian Barbershop.

This year Harmony Foundation held a fund raising concert on the Saturday afternoon. We saw the local Sweet Adelines chorus *Harborlites* who just happen to be two-time champions as well as three top choruses, the *Ambassadors of Harmony*, *Vocal Majority* & *Masters of Harmony*. The three men's choruses combined for the finale with over 400 singing.

As always, there is very little time to do much other than sleep, eat & get to & from the venue which was about 3 km from the hotel. The buses coped pretty well though we walked there & back a few times. One great thing we did was renew acquaintance with the guys & gals from the *Sounds of Aloha* chorus who had been such good hosts in Hawaii. They had agreed to be one of the mike testing choruses & had come on stage all dressed as Frankenstein's zombies with a funny routine involving electricity & a mad scientist. We were able to catch up with Mike Tiemann who had sung with Sydney Harmony at the last convention when he was on secondment with the US military.

What did I learn? Apart from the fact that numbers were down significantly from last year, the Convention was in many ways very similar to others. Membership seems to be getting older & the guys who sing in choruses are just like us. The obvious things that differentiate a good chorus from an average one are the discipline of singing with free & open voice production & the great effort that is invested in selling the message of the song. The easier it looks, the harder a chorus works. The chorus from Sweden, *Zero8*, were 31 young music students from Stockholm who sang with beautiful clear voices to score 89.7%. I was told that they only came to barbershop singing recently. As our director says, good singing is good singing regardless of style & these guys proved that. As always, it is hard for a small chorus to score well but there were a few choruses with 30 -50 members & they did very well. There was a lot of interaction outside the competitions & it was possible to sing with anyone. The headquarters hotel & surrounding hotels were good as you would expect with hotels at the entry gates to Disneyland but the area was very expensive. Better venues for a convention are places like Nashville & Indianapolis where you can walk everywhere. The next convention is in Philadelphia & I expect that will be a good place to visit.

I encourage anyone who loves Barbershop to go to at least one International before they leave the hobby. It is a great way to see the best of the best & interact with some very friendly & knowledgeable people. There are usually a number of Australians there. I don't think it's my last International Convention.

Rob Walley,
Sydney Harmony



Barbershop - The Secret of Youth?

Is GLAM Australia's first octogenarian quartet?

Gamble (David), **L**oving (Myron), **A**bbott (Linc) and **M**cmichael (Mell) rang out the familiar chords of "The Old Songs-Down Our Way" to an enthusiastic gathering of fellow barbershoppers at Mell's 80th Birthday Celebration in mid August. The musical portion of the celebration, which included 5 quartets and 2 choruses, was MC'd by Derek Churchill, AAMBS Vice President Marketing. The Grand Finale included familiar songs by a combined chorus directed by five present and former AAMBS Music Directors.

For the record, both Linc and Mell are Life Members of AAMBS and were strongly involved in the early development of the Society.

Linc is a Life Member of two choruses, the Brisbane River City Clippers, which he directed for about 6 years, and the Gold Coast Blenders (formerly Banana Blenders – which he founded and directed).

Mell is a Life Member of two choruses, the former Bathurst Barbershop Chorus (which he co-founded) and the Sunshine Statesmen (which he co-founded with Mike Ivess).

Linc was a Gold Medallist in the Open Quartet category; David & Mell in the Senior Quartets. Between them they hold about 10 quartet and chorus gold medals.

Mell was President and Vice President of AAMBS. He was President of the Sunshine Region for 4 years, Bathurst 2 years, Sunshine Statesmen 3 years.

David sang with the Gold Coast Chorus for many years and Mell and Myron are still actively singing with The Clippers. Mell also sings with the Sunshine Statesmen. Linc directs a group of Senior Gold Coast Barbershoppers.

Barbershoppers breathe deeply, drink plenty of water, exercise (choreography!), concentrate, involve themselves socially with music, laughter and good fellowship – a recipe for good health. The 'secret of youth'? To "Keep the whole world singing"!

Norma McMichael

Regional Big Choruses to Entice a Response?



Well it works! Better than you might imagine.

Sunday 6th September was Brisbane's 150th Birthday and 87 Sunshine Region Barbershoppers (The Sunshiners) performed in Brisbane's Southbank Piazza to

wind up the huge Celebrations on a bright sunny (what else), spring day. There would have been more if it had not also been Fathers Day. As Clippers MD Don Godfrey said " it was great to sing with all the guys in a non-competitive atmosphere. There should be more of it"

Indeed there should; and the audience was more than enthusiastic in its applause. The day was called "Come Celebrate", so that was the first song, sung with both obvious joy and energy. Don Godfrey's direction was followed by Nick Elis of Bayside with "My Country" and finally Issue 112 Barbershop Notes –September/October 2009

the inimitable Mike Ludwig who traveled down 100kms from Toowoomba with his High Altitude Harmony, conducting "I Still Call Australia Home". And here is a tip for any betting men out there. Be on these mountaineers in Hobart for a place.

The Singers? The atmosphere was great and they performed admirably. Punching well above their weight as the TV ad says and dispelling any trepidation there may have been among the doubters that it might not work.

So what's the point? Gentlemen this was a template for other Regions to use if they get an opportunity to perform at a major event. This is how to grab an appreciative audience and get a better response. Oh and incidentally, bringing our genre to a wider audience will bring new members who just want to be part of that fun. As Don Godfrey said; "there should be more of it"

Derek Churchill

A Sad Farewell



The curtain is down, the lights are off, and the door is closed. Broadwater Chorus members put away their music and Pole

Cat books - a sadness fills the air as we say farewell. Broadwater Chorus has always been a small chorus and has been going now for around 4 years. During that time we have had some good singers and we made use of these members to uplift the chorus. We did numerous sing-outs, retirement villages, charity shows, singing with bands, etc. As these singers got more confident with the art of barbershop singing they started to look elsewhere and we lost five of them to a larger chorus. These men were section leaders and I relied on them to help the other members. We are very proud that they are now happy and successful in their new chorus.

Our numbers went down to eleven, then down to 8. It is a huge job for the Musical Director to not only do what an MD is expected to do but to spend the night teaching notes, you never seem to finish a song – you rely on your Section Leaders so much for assistance.

Our committee tried to get new members without success and the interest of the members then waned. We were very thankful of having some help from Benchmark who came one night and taught the chorus a new song. The chorus is going to have a break-up dinner on Thursday 3 September. The remaining members are still keen to continue but we just do not have the leadership needed, or perhaps the dedication needed, to turn the chorus around.

It has been a very happy time for me, but a very frustrating time as well. I do thank all present and past members for making Broadwater chorus a happy and fun chorus. I am encouraging the guys left to join The Clippers' chorus and I know they will be very happy in doing this. I hope in the future that I will be involved in another chorus but until that opportunity comes along I need to seriously study for my Presentation judging course which I will be doing in Hobart. I take this opportunity to wish all those going to Hobart a very successful time and I will see you there.

Janet Sippen, Musical Director

Ed Note: We wish Janet and the members of Broadwater Chorus well, and look forward to seeing them on the risers as members of another AAMBS Chorus



Miner Chords – Old Court House Ipswich

South East Queensland is home to many historical sites and one living piece of history is St Brigid's Catholic Church at Rosewood. This is the largest timber Catholic Church in the southern hemisphere and Miner Chords were privy to singing in its shadow on a warm winter's Sunday afternoon in late July. As one looks at the marble altar, the realisation that it is all made of blended timber is awe inspiring. So to is the sound of a Barbershop Chorus ringing chords in perfect harmony. In Hobart we are all looking forward to joining our Australian Barbershop fraternity and ringing many a chord in our southernmost capital city.

At a rehearsal night in early August, our Music Director decided to give us a lesson on music theory. Mark drew a musical staff on the whiteboard and asked the president to come up and write a note on it. Ian our president, stood at the whiteboard and looked thoughtful for a minute, then wrote –“Dear Aunty Ena, just a short note to tell you I'm fine and the chorus have agreed to sing at your nursing home when in Hobart”.

Apart from preparing for Hobart, **Fifty Men in Twenty Ten** is our main focus with a recent chorus meeting coming up with many innovative suggestions. Making contact with the local churches and placing fliers on their notice boards. Contacting the local schools and requesting permission for a stall at their annual fete as well as singing to prospective members. Not only can you tap into the male parents, but also within the high schools, the older male students. Another innovative idea is purchasing copies of the International Convention DVD and CD to present to the local library on an annual basis. This can become an important event for both the library and chorus if it becomes part of a dedicated barbershop awareness promotion.

One of the great things about the barbershop fraternity is the friendships and camaraderie that exists between the choruses. Since the birth of HAH (Toowoomba), we have built a strong supportive relationship with them along with our ongoing ties with The Blenders and River City Clippers. As a chorus we would publicly like to thank these other choruses for their assistance and support. Coming into Hobart we have been most fortunate in having 'Griffo' from The Blenders preparing our choreography. In what other sport would the opposition offer support to enable you to challenge them in competition? An amazing gesture that is forthcoming from any chorus at any time.

In the last 'Barbershop Notes' our president asked for Expressions of Interest on attending Italy next year. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the trip has been postponed with the possibility of participating in 2012, another 'non-Convention' year. Thank you to those who expressed an interest.

"Our lives improve only when we take chances - and the first and most difficult risk we can take is to be honest with ourselves."

This is so important to us all as we prepare each week. Are we giving our best tonight, are we rehearsing at home, are we looking for new members, are we positive when discussing our chorus. All this is in the present tense, not the past and not the future. What we do now will be reflected in what our chorus looks like and sounds like tomorrow.

The Pen



An A Capella Group Frenzy at Bellevue Park

Those who think that Barbershop and a Capella singing is outdated were disproved last Friday.

The Gold Coast Barbershop Harmony Club, also known as The Blenders, called for a demonstration of a cappella singing and the event turned into an overwhelming success. The program, packed with energy, humour, harmony and entertainment, really impressed the audience.

It is unbelievable how many singing groups have emerged, most of which are affiliated with The Blenders. "They are shooting up like mushrooms out of the ground and they are all of excellent quality" said organizer Brett Logan. The list of performing groups needed to be closed early. Obviously the Gold Coast Barbershop Club has a positive influence on the art of singing and entertaining in the region. The club created the necessary environment for this event by supplying manpower, space, musical and technical advice.

The venue was the Hall of Bellevue Park State School in Southport and about 400 guests enjoyed this outstanding event, featuring the talents of South East Queensland's Barbershop quartets and a cappella groups such as Vocaleez, 4D, Cloud 8, Forte, Cool Change, Men Wot Sing, Chord On Bleu, Eight Feet There, What 4, Benchmark, Signature and Happy Hour.



4D – Trevor Bruger, Jono Albertini, Aaron Griffin, Dylan Mackenzie

A highpoint of the evening was reached when The Champions presented their competition program for the upcoming

National Barbershop Competition in Hobart that will take place the end of September.

How long will it take until Gold Coasters will be able to enjoy an a cappella festival in the park or at the beach somewhere along the coast? Where the hell are you, entertainment agencies and government organizations? We are ready for the show.

For those who missed the event, there will be another chance to see a comparable show in September. The Blenders' farewell concert before departing to Hobart will be held on the 21. September 09 at the Youth Orchestra Centre in Ashmore – Community Drive at 7:00h. So fetch your calendar, make a note and walk right in.

More details on The Blenders can be found at www.theblenders.com.au

Gunther Illek
PR and Gig Co-ordinator

AAAMBS Council sends its very best wishes to Mal Castledine of Silverfox Quartet, (our own ambassadors of harmony), for a speedy recovery from his recent back surgery.





LIFE MEMBERSHIP AND OBE'S AWARDED

In early August, special recognition was given to Linc Abbot in the form of Life Membership of the Brisbane River City Clippers. Linc, a widely know figure in the world of Australian barbershop singing was a former Musical Director of The Clippers. The celebration and recognition of Linc's contribution to the chorus in its early years was enhanced by birthday celebrations for two fellow long serving barber-shoppers, Mel McMichael and Myron Loving – all THREE celebrated their eightieth birthdays within two weeks of each other. The occasion was the perfect opportunity to show appreciation of the long service of these three gentlemen to the journey of The Clippers since establishment in 1991. President of The Clippers, David Spillane, presented specially commissioned OBE, **(OVER BLOODY EIGHTY)** certificates for the three octogenarians. All three then took turns to conduct the chorus through a song of their choice.

Linc Abbot receiving his Life Membership of the Clippers



August 6th marked the arrival of Digital radio in Brisbane and saw forty of The Clippers turn out at 7.30am in the city to support Radio 4BC/4BH for this significant event in the journey of radio in the Sunshine State. Only a few weeks before this event, The Clippers had to toss the blankets back even earlier on a very cool morning to open the annual Zonta Fair. This was the seventeenth year in



succession the chorus has supported this worthwhile Charity.

The Clippers hard at work in Brisbane City, marking the arrival of Digital Radio in Queensland.

August 29th was the date for The Clippers annual concert when the chorus strutted its stuff before the Brisbane public. A good crowd of 400 turned out to the new venue for 2009 – The City Church Auditorium in Bowen Hills. Several Clippers' quartets supported the chorus along with Jazz Ensemble, 'The Blue Notes' lead by Clippers member Ian Matthewson on Clarinet/Saxophone. "Cool Change" the award winning ladies quartet from the Gold Coast provided another experience of precise harmony singing. The guest artist for the evening was well-known personality and entertainer, Ian Maurice of Radio 4BC. The judgement of the audience deemed the evening a great success and provided an opportunity for the Clippers to hone their performance before heading off to Hobart for the National Convention.

As this edition of Barbershop Notes goes to print The Clippers will notch up another major event with a Sunday afternoon performance in the South Bank Piazza to celebrate the State of Queensland's 150th Anniversary of Statehood.

And it is now just 104 weeks to go to book a spot in Brisbane for the 11th AAMBS National Convention and the Pan Pacific Convention in 2011. While it is a little early to lodge a formal application on paper, it is the perfect time to make the

decision to be a part of a very special occasion for the Australian Barbershop movement.

Mark your diaries now!

Mark Druery



SUNSHINE REGION REPORT

The 150th anniversary of Queensland - The Sunshiners Chorus.

From 2.45 to 3pm on next Sunday, 6th September 2009 The Sunshiners will perform at the invitation of the Lord Mayor of Brisbane as the concluding act prior to the Mayor's speech in Southbank Piazza.

The songs will be "Sound Celebration" sung by the Clippers as the remaining chorus joins the stage and surrounds them for "My Country" and "I Still Call Australia Home".

The use of "Sound Celebration" has presented a huge challenge as the complete chorus has never been able to assemble for a combined practice of this difficult song. The Clippers performed the song in public successfully last Saturday and will ensure the performance is professional while the movement answering the call to celebration should give life to the TV production and ensure coverage by the press.

The Blenders will be at a weekend training camp in the country with Todd Wilson. However many are racing to Brisbane to assist with the performance.

Publicity for the coming 2011 Pan Pacific and Barbershop in general will be enhanced by quartets and choruses who are free to tour the entire Southbank from 10am to whenever, performing at any of 12 "Busker" locations.

The newest chorus "High Altitude Harmony" from Toowoomba under Mike Ludwig will travel all the way to Brisbane for the performance.

Derek Churchill has persevered with the arrangements and we will all have a great day at possibly the largest event of the 150 year anniversary celebration.

More than 80 performers have committed to arrive from all over SE Queensland at the same place at the time needed to get rapidly on stage and to present a high quality performance.

All members of the region have been invited to the chorus and we look forward to tremendous exposure on TV, although The Misty Mountain Moonshiners find it a little too far from Yungaburra!

The Misty Mountain Moonshiners

This chorus is possibly the most remote from assistance in Australia.

They all appreciate any assistance and asked me to again thank Ian Miller for "dropping by".

Carmel and I had a ball when we visited last week while in Cairns.

We were the winners in exchanging any slight assistance I could bring for a superb pasta meal, meeting all of the wives, learning how to home-make pasta (including chocolate pasta!) and sampling the "Misty Mountain Moonshine".

What a night. I suggest you all try to arrange a visit and improve your whiskey manufacturing skills! Please let me know if you travel to the Atherton Tablelands.

2009 National Competitions in Hobart

Other Regions, be assured of severe competition from the many choruses from The Sunshine Region who will be competing.

We are all anticipating a great time at what is sure to be one of the best of Nationals.

2011 Pan Pacific Convention

The River City Clippers continue to work toward this event and will have Banners on display on Sunday at the 150 year celebration.

John Shelton remains the key person with assistance from many of the "Clippers" and we all look forward to accepting the challenge at the conclusion of the national competitions in Hobart.

Please continue to assist John with rapid answers to his requests for information and action as they may arise.

Best regards,
Trevor Remphrey

NOVATONES AT LARGE (AT LAST)

Champing at the bit, eighteen members of the new Newcastle Chorus 'Novatones', were unleashed on an unsuspecting public at the Heritage Mall in Maitland on Saturday 15th August. The occasion was the "Maitland Aroma Festival" and yes, we did sing by invitation.

Like a rocket on a sled we took off at full throttle with poor old MD Dick straining at the reins. After the first few songs, Dick



was able to get the volume under some semblance of control and we concluded our first bracket with three songs from the quartet *Four Crying Out Loud* who restored at least some credit to the famed barbershop blending.

We then moved to the next area, then the next and gradually our singing got a little smoother and a little sweeter, till at our last spot we could actually see joy in the faces of some of the audience and genuine applause at the end of each song.

In all, it was an exhausting but satisfying two hours, not least for the *Four Crying Out Loud* boys who stepped out for several extra songs at each place we stopped, while the rest of the Chorus took a breather.

Tired, but determined, sixteen members backed up the next day to lead the singing at the Vietnam Vets Long Tan
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Commemoration Service at the Vets' Hostel in Norville on the Central Coast. This venue has a magnificent outdoor chapel which also created some difficulties for us, with next to no shade and uneven ground to stand on. However we've been invited back next year and will be wiser for the experience.

Everyone sang with control and solemnity befitting the occasion. We sang two hymns: *Amazing Grace* and *Abide With Me* and the first verse only of *Advance Australia Fair*, sadly being unable to sing the tag, as our job was just to lead the singing. We backed up by entertaining everyone as they ate their barbecued lunch (in the shade).

With three performances now under our belt we are looking forward to building our repertoire and stepping out more often, though preferably not so much outdoors and in the midday sun!

Mike Danks



Undoubtedly the last two months have been the busiest so far for HAH. It has grown to 37 registered members (How's that for 18 months?) with a record 37 singers on the risers at times. We're sounding more resonant by the week!

Highlights for us have been our being able to host and welcome special guest coaches, Andrew Howson (MD of The Blenders) and his lovely wife, Jen (a presentation whiz) as well as more recently, world-renowned, gold medal tenor with Acoustix and The Vocal majority, Todd Wilson. Andrew's vocal coaching and Jen's ramping up of our energy levels took HAH, our Quartet, *Left Field* - and during "special sessions", our younger members (ably led by HAH's Assistant MD, Ben Harris) - to another level of learning and performance quality. Having Todd Wilson at our rehearsal session made it a big night and was icing on the cake.

Lake Perseverance Recreation Centre Lodge, 40 km north of Toowoomba in lightly timbered country, was an idyllic setting for work sessions with Andrew and Jen Howson, for members gaining qualifications and for developing camaraderie within the HAH family. Thanks to the Planning Team of Beth and Stuart



Adey, Wendy and Les Barker, Mary and Mike Wells and Beris and Mike Ludwig, HAH members and supporters sang, socialized and children played. Peter Devey emceed the entertaining variety concert on the Saturday evening. The *Secret Women's Business* involving "knitting

patterns" was revealed when our wonderful supporters, all dolled up, took to the risers to sing *Heart of My Heart* with some varied but very appropriate lyrics.

Pleasingly, HAH is emerging as a recognizable entertainment chorus amongst the Toowoomba community. This has occurred because of the efforts of numerous HAH members. Our Quartet, *Left Field*, has sung on numerous occasions including birthday functions and to a Ladies' Business Luncheon. Credit must go to our reliable members who regularly attend rehearsals - most have qualified for the songs and have attended weekend gigs such as the Drayton Retirement Villas and the South Queensland Institute of TAFE Camellia Show.

John Skerman (who together with Peter Devey always has his guitar at the ready for a gig sing-a-long) organized for HAH to

perform at the South West Queensland Training Awards in July. Local RSL President and HAH member Paddy Boxall ensured that HAH - with Assistant MD Ben Harris directing - entertained RSL members and guests for an RSL 90th birthday celebration. Guests included the Toowoomba Mayor and a local member of State Parliament. As the 50th year celebration for Toowoomba's Carnival of Flowers approaches, HAH welcomed in the families to the carnival's Young Ambassadors' Program. We were also part of the Q150 celebrations in Brisbane at the Sunshine Region's Sing-out. We recently had a fun-filled social gathering hosted by Greg and Alison Lewis, featuring lot of tag quarteting.

Tony Hynes keeps us all communicating with a skilfully maintained website and Nick Currie, our librarian, ensures that we have the music. Every member is supported and encouraged by our most patient, understanding and talented MD, Mike Ludwig, who never seems to run out of energy. He is undoubtedly the best MD a chorus could ever wish for. It is he who ensures that a continuous personal commitment by members and repertoire building is supported by extra section practices, scratch quartets strutting their stuff and our Quartet *Left Field* teaching and performing. Beris Ludwig, the wardrobe manager, has members all smartly decked out now for all singing occasions.

Our magnificent Support Team ably led by Beris helps foster the camaraderie that is so much a part of HAH. Fund raising through scrumptious suppers after rehearsals, and successful Tupperware Parties (hosted by Beris and Alison) have helped to pay for special extra items such as the classy name badges for members and supporters.

So after 18 months 28 members of High Altitude Harmony, together with a team of enthusiastic supporters, will head off to Hobart to their first National Barbershop Convention to generate many wonderful and unforgettable memories.

Ivan Nugus, Secretary



COMING EVENTS

2009

Sept 18-20 – **SOUNDS CAPITA – NZABS Convention**
– Wellington NZ Details: www.nzabs.org.nz

Sept 21-23 – **AAMBS / NZABS Contest & Judging School**,
Old Woolstore Hotel, Hobart TAS. Entry by application
only. Information: Ian Mulholland --
IMulholland@roxresources.com.au or 08 9384 9292 or
0418 956 492

Sept 24-27 – **AAMBS 10th Annual Convention** – Hotel
Grand Chancellor, Hobart, Tasmania, hosted by Hobart
Barbershop Harmony Club. Details
www.hmbhc.intas.net/Convention2009

Sept 27-30 – **AAMBS Harmony College, Hobart, Eastcoaster
Resort on Tasmania's Holiday Coast. Cost - \$295
(+ \$10 for bus transport to and from venue)**

Oct 2-4 – **Irish Association of Barbershop Singers,
21st Annual Convention.** Venue: The Helix, Dublin

Cost: €60.00 Registration closing date was 30th June 2009.

Accommodation: Crowne Plaza, Santry, Dublin

www.eventelephant.com/absannualconvention09

Oct 11)
Nov 1) **AAMBS Council Meetings – Teleconferences**
Dec 6)

Dec 8 – **AAMBS AGM** – 6.30pm Western Standard Time –
Wembley Downs Uniting Church, Calais Road,
Wembley Downs, WA

2010

Jan 26-31 – **BHS Midwinter Convention**, Tampa, Florida USA

Feb ?? – **AAMBS Council Face to Face Meeting**

Feb 26-28 – **Eastern Region Weekend Workshop.** Greenhills
Conference Centre, Canberra ACT

Jun 27-Jul 4 – **BHS International Convention**, Philadelphia PA
USA

Oct 1-3 – **Irish Association of Barbershop Singers'
International Convention.** Limerick, Ireland

Oct 22-24 - **NZABS Convention, followed by Harmony
College,** Hamilton NZ

2011

Jan 18-23 – **BHS Midwinter Convention**, Tucson, Arizona USA

Jun 27-Jul 4 – **BHS International Convention**, Kansas City MO
USA

Oct 7-9 – **Irish Association of Barbershop Singers'
International Convention.** Belfast, Ireland

Sept 28–Oct 2 - **AAMBS 11th Annual Convention and Pan
Pacific Convention, Brisbane Qld** – Hosted by The
Brisbane River City Clippers

2012

Jul 1-8 – **BHS International Convention**, Portland, Oregon
USA

Oct 7-9 – **Irish Association of Barbershop Singers'
International Convention.** Dublin, Ireland

2013

Jun 27-Jul 4 – **BHS International Convention**, Toronto,
Ontario, Canada

Oct 4-6 – **Irish Association of Barbershop Singers'
International Convention.** Galway, Ireland

2014

Jun 29-Jul 6 – **BHS International Convention**, Minneapolis MN
USA

2015

Jun 28-Jul 5 – **BHS International Convention**, Pittsburgh PA
USA

2016

Jul 3-10 – **BHS International Convention**, Nashville, TN USA

